

ask the House whether it did not disprove one of the assertions of the hon. member (Mr. GARRATT) that the wool of South Australia was the best producing law he had come across in regard to new countries, and it had succeeded, for the people of South Australia not only grew enough food for themselves, but they also raised surplus quantities of it. It was remarkable that he was, in New South Wales, put nearly half the wheat we require from South Australia. He would go no further. It had been said it did not matter whether we grew wheat or wool, or sugar, or sugar; it did not matter what we grew, the question is what use we make of the public lands. He had heard it said again and again in that House that the wool of New South Wales was making better use of the public lands than any colony in the British Empire. He would test that. From 1867 to 1878—the last twenty years—the hon. member had returned to New South Wales, and he had returned to New South Wales with a great deal of information. He had seen that South Australia had an export in those twenty years of wool, minerals, and breadstuffs, equal to £312 per head of the population of those twenty years. (Mr. GARRATT: Most of the wool came from the Northern Territory, and some where it came from, but the wool that went to South Australia from our territory was very small compared with that which went to Victoria and New South Wales.) He remembered that he had taken credit for every pound of wool that went from our territory to Victoria and to South Australia. The wool we received from Queensland was larger in proportion than was the wool of Victoria. In Victoria, the total value of the exports per head of the mean population for the twenty years was £276, while in New South Wales it was only £251, and that was taking credit for the whole of the exportable produce of the colony, as well as pastoral and agricultural produce. What, then, became of the statement that we were making more use of the public lands in New South Wales than any other colony? He appealed to the official returns of the colonies as showing positive proof to the contrary.

Mr. BAKER: Our production has been greater.

Mr. GREENWOOD: If our production had been greater the facts ought to show it. What was the good of the hon. member's bare assertion without proof? The Minister for Lands moved the second reading of this bill, but he did not address a single fact in support of it. He dealt in mere assertions.

Mr. CAMERON: Yours are mere assertions.

Mr. GREENWOOD: Mine are not mere assertions; they are facts.

Mr. HOSKINS: And I advanced arguments.

Mr. GREENWOOD: The hon. member's speech consisted of bare unsupported assertions from beginning to end, and he now called upon the House not to be led away by unsupported assertions. The hon. member's speech was (Mr. GARRATT, who was the real advocate of this bill in this House—for the Minister for Lands was merely its spokesman) that all the colonies in the world had legislation in regard to New South Wales. He had proved that that was absolutely false in regard to South Australia. And now as to Victoria. Victoria was the daughter of New South Wales, and naturally enough she had been led to follow her wake in regard to free selection before survey. Her law, however, had this provision, that one-fourth of the area free selected must be cultivated every year. Cultivation was the very basis of the law of Victoria, and it represented a genuine improvement of the soil which became permanent settlement. Here, however, the Government professed to give up the conditions of improvement and to have only fencing, and cultivation would not be necessary under the proposed law. The effect of the law in Victoria was, that the settlers in that colony were growing wheat and raising stock, and that in Victoria, while in New South Wales we did not grow wheat enough to feed one-half of our population. There was also this important provision in the Land Law of Victoria, which we had not, and that was that the value of the land revenue £200,000, should be annually spent in the construction of railways, or be applied in the payment of allowances for public works. In New South Wales, £7,000,000 acres had been sold under free selection in Victoria, and the effect had been the accumulation of large estates in the hands of a few, to such an extent that the Legislature of that colony had been led to pass one of the most oppressive laws in the world. They divided the land into four classes for the purpose of taxation; but municipal and county property and less areas than 640 acres, were taxed. Taking the land that was taxable, there were 1,000 freeholders in Victoria altogether who owned 4,900,467 acres, and they paid taxes amounting to £116,172 per annum, while the total amount of the land was only £131,000. There was proportionately a far larger amount of bona fide settlement in Victoria than in New South Wales, and in New South Wales free selection was working in the most detrimental manner to the estates, to a ten times greater extent, than it had done in Victoria. Some gentlemen who owned land in Victoria also had runs in New South Wales, and on examination of the official information which he had obtained from Victoria, he got some startling results. Samuel Wilson, he saw, held 267,440 acres under lease in New South Wales, for which he paid £17,000. In Victoria, Samuel Wilson held 17,452 acres of purchased land, upon which he paid the annual tax of £34,248. For the use of his own land this gentleman paid an annual tax of £18 12s. 7d. per square mile in Victoria, while in New South Wales he paid only 1s. 7d. per square mile of acres of public lands, on which he only paid a rent of 1s. 7d. per square mile. He did not justify the high land tax in Victoria, but he should be driven to similar legislation by our present system in New South Wales. The next case he would mention was that of the Chirnside, who rented 667,580 acres in New South Wales for £21,158, and the director of the Crown Lands in Victoria to the extent of 165,816 acres, for which they paid taxes to the amount of £4913. So that for the use of their own land in Victoria they paid £10 per square mile, while for the use of Crown lands in New South Wales they paid 22s. 2d. per square mile. And then he noticed the name of Isaac Youngblood, who held 504,800 acres in New South Wales, for which he paid £27,000, and in Victoria he owned 12,036 acres for which he paid £270 per annum as taxes. For the use of the public land in New South Wales he paid 9s. 6d. per square mile, and for his own land he paid 1s. 7d. per square mile, or about thirty times as much in taxes in Victoria as he paid in rent in New South Wales. Another case he would mention was that of Mr. George Armstrong, who leased eleven runs, containing 307,800 acres of land in the colony for which he paid £330, or 14s. 6d. per square mile. In Victoria, the same gentleman owned 55,025 acres of land, the same gentleman paid £12,000, or £23 per square mile. The reason why he had introduced those instances was to show that their land system was not so wonderfully wise and prudent and conducive to the welfare of the people as the hon. member had said it was, and that neither South Australia nor Victoria had copied it in the manner that gentleman said they had. He found that there were some 43,500 acres in the colonies he held 1294 runs, with an area of 4,838,000 acres. They were also said to hold purchased land to the extent of 809,003 acres. There were fifteen financial companies holding 603 runs, comprising 18,925,000 acres, and they paid 677,485 acres of purchased land. So that eighty-five firms held 1897 runs, comprising 67,778,808, and 1,647,068 acres of purchased land. The rest of the lands leased or purchased consisted of 2575 runs, comprising 8,181,000 acres, and 4,807,643 acres of purchased land. The total for the colony was 4772 runs, 154,807,896 acres; annual rent, £166,947; purchased land, 18,925,000 acres; annual rent per square mile, 18s. 8d.; square miles, 210,587. And he would prove that half the leased lands of the colony was in the hands of 86 firms, who held also a very large proportion of purchased land, and that in leased land the majority of Crown lands, they were legislating for the benefit of a very small number of persons, and so depriving the great body of the people of their share in them. The whole area of the colony consisted of 325,374 square miles, and the leased was 235,732 square miles. The total alienated was 46,512 square miles, and there were 44,993 square miles, which he presumed represented the land that was nearly available area in New South Wales were either sold or otherwise. He thought it would be acknowledged on all hands that it was unfortunate for any colony to have its lands held by only a few persons. One of the great objects of the Commonwealth of the United Kingdom sprang from the fact that the lands there were in the hands of a very few persons, and that the great body of the people had no interest in them and were dependent entirely upon the will of their lords. He had some figures showing the state of affairs in that respect in England, and he referred to Earl Bessborough, who had moved for a resolution in regard to the freehold list of the United Kingdom. That list took three years to prepare, and now it was exceedingly valuable, and he would predict that it would have a tremendous effect upon the future history of the United Kingdom, and his intention to go over that voluminous list in a minute, but he had summarised it, and he found that forty-three landholders owned amongst them 8,946,068 acres of land, or an average of 194,000 acres each. He mentioned these figures as a test of which they might apply to the results of legislation in the colony, which showed that the hon. member was accumulating the land in the hands of a few to an extent never before equalled in such a short time in the history of the world. He had a return which had been moved for by the Premier, and printed in May, 1878, on the question of what had become of the land in Victoria, and he was the following letter from Mr. Adams:—

"Surveyor-General's Office, Sydney, 7 August, 1877. Sir,—It is desired by the Government that reports be continued upon the present condition of the land in the 12th, 14th, 21st, and 22nd sections of the Alienation Act of 1861, and in this view my attention has been called to the following heads of inquiry, viz.:—First. The proportion of land taken up under those clauses. Secondly. The proportion of bona-fide homesteads, either agricultural, pastoral, or of a character embracing both. Thirdly. The proportion taken up by speculative purposes, and the proportion taken up after three years' occupation and fulfilling the requirements of the Act. Thirdly. The proportion taken up by persons other than the lessees of Crown lands, on the probability of their interests being purchased by the Crown tenants. Fourthly. Proportion taken up by persons acting as dummy for Crown tenants, for the purpose of protecting their runs. Fifthly. The proportion remaining after settling the foregoing questions, with remarks as to its disposal.

"The consideration of the subject may be simplified by dropping an arbitrary number, say, 100,000 acres, as representing the total area alienated under the provisions of the clauses referred to; and you are at liberty to apply the same quantity to the whole, or parts of your districts, should it be in ultimate or by their own admissions had under separate consideration. Economy; and I enclose, and wish that you will clearly define the geographic lands within which your reports will apply.

"I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours faithfully,
P. F. BARRA."

Circular issued 10th August, 1877, to District Surveyors.

stantial aid. The question then

whether the State would not do well in granting aid to reserve to itself a right of control. The objections urged against the Mudgee Turf Club Bill amounted to this, that the bill would have the effect of converting a portion of a public reserve into what would be to almost all intents and purposes the private property of the club in question.

The doctrine that all parts of a public recreation ground should be at all times open free of charge to everybody, and that every

should have both the right of free access and

the right to do what he sees fit, is untenable. Unless sports of all kinds be excluded from places of public recreation, and if portions of public recreation grounds are to be prepared and maintained for the pursuit of any particular sports, there must be a power of control somewhere to make these preparations, and to prevent acts of mischief or obstruction. If there is to be a racecourse, the ground must be made and kept suitable for racing; and the same thing is obvious in the case of cricket. But this cannot be done without

some degree restricting liberty of access.

Again, these preparations cannot be made and kept up efficiently without expenditure; and if the funds are not provided by grants of public money or subscriptions, the authorities must have power to make charges for admission. There can be no public racecourses, cricket grounds, or other places of sport, except upon these conditions. It may not be necessary that the public should be excluded at all times; but it is necessary that there should be such a power to exclude at special times, and it is

revenue from admissions as would provide

But, admitting all this, it does not follow that any portion of a public recreating ground which is devoted to the purposes of a particular sport should be allowed to become a virtually private property. On the contrary, the step that ought to be taken is to bring all such places, in a certain degree, under the special control of the State. Public sports are carried on in the presence of large numbers of persons. The

an increasing tendency in this direction. The

growing love of sport, the abundant facilities for its encouragement, the recurrence of inter-colonial and international contests, combine to render it more and more important as time passes by that these gatherings should be held in public places, under the supervision of public authority, and under regulations that have the force of public law. The observance of these conditions is desirable, if not necessary, for the preservation of order and the peace. Where only private regulations prevail, peace

and order are preserved entirely, if not wholly, by the influence of a general feeling

in favour of fair play. But the existence of the force of that feeling cannot be always trusted to safely. A dispute may occur and scatter it to the winds. A breach of fair play, real or imaginary, on the part of the performers may be sufficient to destroy self-control on the part of the spectators, and in the supposed interests of fair play all chance of securing it may be destroyed by the interference of an excited mob. What is required is the interposition of regulations

with all the force of law, the breach of which would render anybody liable to immediate

arrest and, on conviction, summary punishment. Let a cricket match be held, for instance, on a public ground, and let a regulation, with the force of law, provide that, after the ringing of a bell, everybody passing within the fence and on the ground reserved for the players should be liable to be taken into custody. Such a disturbance as that which disgraced the metropolis during the stay of Lord HARRIS's team in Sydney, could then be readily

prevented; and after a little experience in the enforcement of such conditions, no one

would dream of attempting to rush the players. In the absence of such powers the police are likely to be most helpless at the time when their services are most wanted. How the influence of authority may be made to tell in connection with public sports was shown the other day in the case of the horse race on the Parramatta River. The race was pulled on a public highway, the control of which was vested in the Marine Board. The Marine Board published regulations for

the maintenance of order and fair-play, and the preservation of the public safety, and had

the preservation of order, power and the will to enforce them. The result was that, notwithstanding the keenness of the competition, and the lively interest felt in the issue, there was no interference and no disorder; although, probably, had the matter been in private hands, there would have been crowding, confusion, dispute, and loss of life. It would be a sound principle that, wherever large gatherings of people are permitted to witness sportive contests which involve strong interest and excited feeling,

the constituted authorities should, in some such way as is here indicated, have the

such way as is here indicated. The power of exercising a special control, whether the struggle take place upon public ground or private. But when public lands are granted, and set apart for such purposes, the least that the State should do in return for its liberality is to accompany the grant by some such conditions, and to insist upon their enforcement.

"Shall we give up Greek?" is a question which Mr. E. A. FREEMAN asks, and answers it

the negative, in the *Fortnightly Review*. He

has been moved to discuss this question the fact that in the University of Cambridge it has recently been seriously proposed that the demand for Greek should be mitigated. Mr. FREEMAN apologises for saying nothing new on the subject. The controversy, he says, has its cycles; it comes up and it goes to sleep again. Certain arguments are presented, they receive an answer, and the discussion dies away. When therefore, after an interval of a few years, the same objections are revived, there is nothing for it but to give

the same reply, and with the same result;

and therefore it is that he says over and over again that the nature just what he had said anonymously eight years ago. This line of remark shows that a very learned historian, though very skillful in tracing the causes and effects of social and political movements in past days, may be unable to read the signs of his own time. The reason why the arguments come up again periodically, in the way that so astonishes Mr. FREEMAN, is that they are born of the felt necessities of the age; and his mistake is in supposing that his age

ments in reply have slain them.

The fact is that education is taking a much wider range now than it did when the course of University studies was originally marked out. More people are now receiving a primary education, more people are

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